Chapter 45 x New Members and Suits

TOORU SAID HE WANTED TO BREAK UP WITH MINA.
BECAUSE HE'S IN LOVE WITH HIS OLDER SISTER
I WOULD HATE IT IF THE PEOPLE AROUND US STARTED GIVING MY PARENTS AND MY SISTER STRANGE LOOKS
THAT'S NOT THE KIND OF RELATION-SHIP I WANT
SO EVEN THOUGH I FOUND OUT WE'RE IN LOVE WITH EACH OTHER,
WE'RE BACK TO PRETEND-ING THAT WE DON'T SO THAT WE CAN BE A FAMILY...

SO MY PLAN FOR NOW IS TO FIND A JOB! AND MOVE OUT ASAP...!
BUT I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN TAKE LIVING TOGETHER LIKE THIS...!
AND NOW, TOGA'S STOPPED LIVING ALONE SINCE HE BROKE UP WITH MINA.
...Done!
So let's really put our all into making these posters~
If we don't manage to get a new member this year, then kaichou might not graduate again!
OKAY!
The poster is finished~!

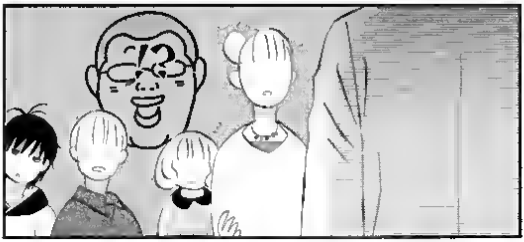
KNOCK KNOCK
Hm?
To-tally
BUT I REALLY HOPE WE GET SOME NEW MEM BERS.
WE MAN-AGED TO SKATE BY LAST YEAR SINCE TOO-RU-KUN JOINED,
WAAH! AOI CHAN AND MEGU-MI-CHAN!
Ohh!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
HI GUYS~ HOW ARE YOU!
ガヤ
SFX OPEN
EHHH! REALLY??
AND WE'D LIKE TO JOIN YOUR CIRCLE~
YEP! WE'RE COLLEGE FRESHMEN THIS YEAR
HUH? COULD IT BE?
IT'S GREAT TO SEE YOU AGAIN-! BUT..
ITE?

?
Uwaah!
IT MADE US THINK THAT THIS CIRCLE MIGHT BE FUN
SINCE WE REALLY ENJOYED COSPLAYING AT THE COMIKET MORE THAN WE THOUGHT WE WOULD,
WOW...
SFX BAM
TEARS? REALLY?
OUR COSPLAY.. WAS NOT IN VAIN..!!
SFX CLENCH
Ourz..
I JUST THINK YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT WE DON'T ALWAYS COSPLAY LIKE THAT, IS THAT OKAY?
OF COURSE I AL-READY KNOW THAT..
UH WELL,
I HEARD HE LOST A LOT OF WEIGHT SINCE HE'S BEEN SO SICK, SO I HOPE HE'S HEALTHY ENOUGH TO COME TODAY..
I'll text kaichou to let him know we got some new mem-bers!
tap tap tap

WHEN HE HEARD THAT WE ENROLLED HERE,
HE LOOKED LIKE HE ALMOST HAD A HEART ATTACK~
I KNOW, RIGHT?
Fu fu fu!
UGH
Eh he he!
MY BROTHER TOLD ME.
EEK KARASUMA-KUN!
IT SOUNDS LIKE HE WAS PLANNING ON LEAVING THE CIRCLE, BUT HE GOT FORCED INTO BEING THE KAICHOU SINCE THERE WASN'T ANYONE ELSE.
Y-you can count on me.
EEEP...
DID YOU HEAR THAT AOI-CHAN'S BROTHER IS THE NEW KAICHOU OF U UNIVERSITY'S CIRCLE?
WOAH! REALLY?
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THE MEET-UPS WITH U UNIVERSITY~
UFUFU
KARASUMA-KUN AS THE KAICHOU IS BASICALLY THE WORST CASE SCENARIO NOW THE MEET-UPS WILL BE INCREDIBLY AWKWARD IF I'M THERE
SO I SHOULD PROBABLY WORK ON A GOOD EXCUSE NOT TO GO...
Ahaha~
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD

SFX BANG
WOAH!? THAT SCARED ME!!
OPEN
Haa haa... S-Sor...
I cant.. Haa haa...
WH- WHO MIGHT YOU BE ..?
WHAT NO, WHAT ARE YOU GUYS SAYING...
Haa
SERIOUS-LY!? ARE WE GONNA GET A WHOLE BUNCH THIS YEAR!?
Maybe he's another new member-

I JUST RUSHED OVER HERE SINCE NAKA-SAN SENT ME A TEXT SAYING WE GOT SOME NEW MEMBERS.



EH...
KA-KAI-CHOU ?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU GUYS? OF COURSE IT'S ME
WA HA HA!
WHO ELSE WOULD IT BE?
FROM WHERE I'M STANDING, PRETTY MUCH ANYONE ELSE

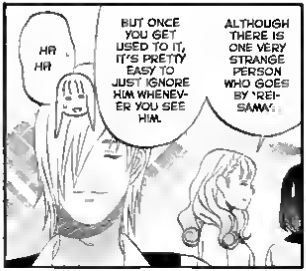
YOU'VE REALLY CHANGED A LOT...
Oh my gosh!
NOT REALLY- I DID SAY I LOST SOME WEIGHT IN MY TEXT, RIGHT?
wa ha ha!
YOU LOST TOO MUCH WEIGHT! I TOTALLY THOUGHT YOU WERE A NEW CHARACTER!
REALLY NOW...
HONESTLY... I WONDERED WHAT WAS GOING ON WHEN YOU SUDDENLY TOOK OFF LIKE THAT...
HUH. FRIEND OF YOURS?
AHH.
THIS IS MY LITTLE BROTHER. HE'S A STUDENT HERE STARTING THIS YEAR
I was just in the middle of showing him around
WHA-! YOU HAVE A #BROTHER!?

WOOOOAH
WHAT A RIDICULOUSLY CLEAN CIRCLE ROOM...!
EH-
EVEN THE AIR FEELS CLEANER IN HERE!
WH-
NICE TO MEET-CHA-
HM?
THAT'S BECAUSE OUR CIRCLE'S TAKATSUKI-SAN REALLY LOVES TO CLEAN~
Ahhh~
BUT THIS ROOM IS SO CLEAN IT'S LIKE I'VE STEPPED INTO ANOTHER DIMENSION...!
I WAS DISHEARTENED BY THE LEVEL OF FILTH IN THE HALLWAY,
OH!
I'VE DECIDED TO JOIN THE JAPANESE HISTORY APPRECIATION SOCIETY.
IF IT'S THIS ROOM THEN I WOULDN'T MIND COMING HERE.

THANK YOU.
I still can't believe how good-looking Kaichou is now, but his little brother's pretty hot too~
HE ENJOYS CLEANING TOO, SO HE MUST BE A GOOD PERSON
HMMMM. WELL, I'M HAPPY WE'RE GETTING MORE PEOPLE, BUT...
THIS GOES FOR EVERYONE, BUT FEEL FREE TO USE ME AS YOUR EYE CANDY ALL YOU WANT!
AND DON'T BE SHY TO CALL ME REI SAMA, 'KAY?
?
WHAT'S THIS? YOU OVER THERE.
GEEZ... HOW COME SO MANY ECCENTRIC PEOPLE END UP IN OUR CIRCLE...
I CAN'T REALLY ARGUE.
I KNOW YOU SAID HE MUST BE A GOOD PERSON, BUT HE'S KIND OF A WEIRDO

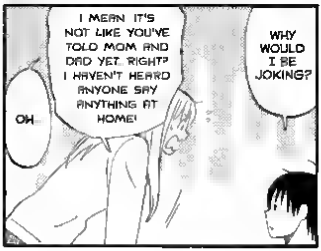
I'D BE WILLING TO LET YOU STAND NEXT TO ME I THINK WE COULD BE FRIENDS.
TELL ME YOUR NUMBER!
COULD IT BE THAT YOU'RE ABOUT AS HOT AS ME?
WHA...
ANYWAY THIS MEANS THAT I CAN GRADUATE IN PEACE NOW THAT SO MANY PEOPLE HAVE JOINED...
HOW COME SO MANY ECCENTRIC PEOPLE END UP IN OUR CIRCLE...
YOU KNOW WHAT, YOU WERE RIGHT HE'S NOT A WEIRDO, HE'S A GOOD PERSON
new friend
AH...
Ah- But before we can think about graduating...
Yay!
Yay!

I can't get a job either~
I'M NOT GETTING ANY JOB OFFERS...
YEAH, IT'S LIKE TOTALLY HEALING TO SPEND TIME WITH EVERYONE
I feel like I kind of get why Tsukaguchi-senpai showed up at the circle even while he was Job hunting-
Yeah~
Most of the time, I don't even get past the written application phase-
MY WRITTEN APPLICATIONS USUALLY GET ACCEPTED, BUT I ALWAYS BOMB THE INTERVIEW-
HELLO!
OH, SENPAI HOW ARE YOU~


HA HA
BUT ONCE YOU GET USED TO IT, IT'S PRETTY EASY TO JUST IGNORE HIM WHENEVER YOU SEE HIM.
ALTHOUGH THERE IS ONE VERY STRANGE PERSON WHO GOES BY 'REI-SAMA'.

YEAH!
EVERYONE IS SUPER NICE AND I'M REALLY GLAD I JOINED!
FINE THANKS-SO? DO YOU LIKE THE CIRCLE SO FAR?

NO. .
ARE YOU TAKING A BREAK FROM JOB HUNTING?
OH, YOU'RE HERE TOO?

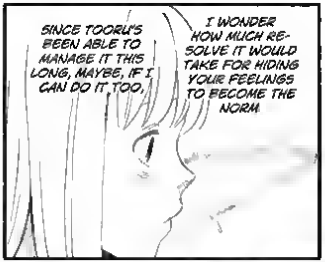

OH
I MEAN IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'VE TOLD MOM AND DAD YET, RIGHT? I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYONE SAY ANYTHING AT HOME!
WHY WOULD I BE JOKING?

EH!?
YOU'RE JOKING ..!!
I ALREADY RECEIVED A JOB OFFER.

I DON'T KNOW. IF YOU JUST ANSWER THE QUESTIONS THEY ASK YOU, THEN YOU'LL GET ACCEPTED RIGHT?
How did you get accept-ed-
IT'S NOT FAIR~ HOW COME YOU GOT AN OFFER~ YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'D BE AWFUL AT INTERVIEWS~
GEH...
ARE YOU WOR-RIED ABOUT IT?
Rei-sama
I'LL LET YOU KNOW WHY YOU'RE NOT GOOD ENOUGH
HEH
Why aren't we good enough for them--!?
NOOOO! EVEN THOUGH I'VE ALREADY FAILED TWICE...!
WE CAME HERE TO BE HEALED, THOUGH...
PISSED OFF...
wink
YOU'RE NOT BEAUTIFUL ENOUGH!

WE'RE TOGETHER AT HOME AND AT THE CIRCLE... SO AT FIRST I WAS A BIT WORRIED ABOUT HOW IT WOULD GO,
BUT WHEN WE'RE WITH EVERYONE IN THE CIRCLE OR EVEN WHEN WE'RE AT HOME, WE'VE START-ED TALKING NOR-MALLY TO EACH OTHER

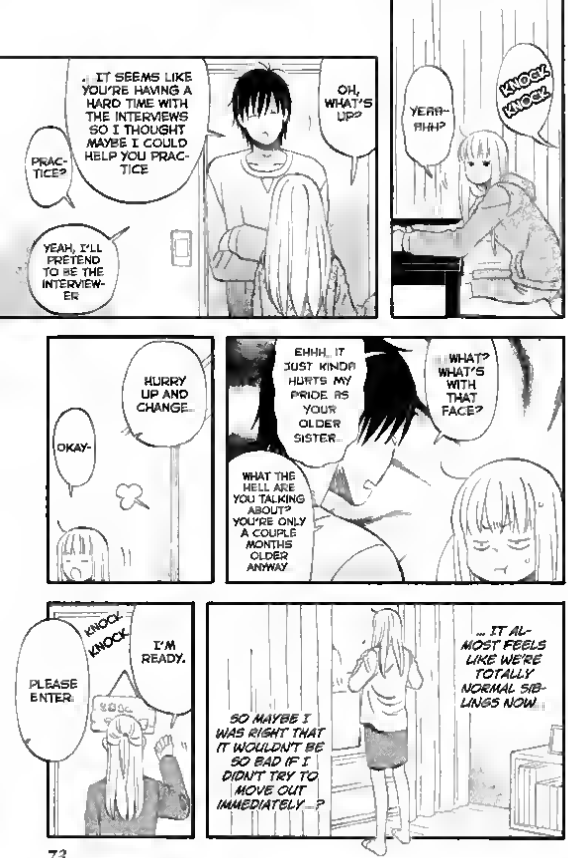
chatter
Ah ha ha ha!
GRAB
chatter
This Punk-


SINCE TOORU'S BEEN ABLE TO MANAGE IT THIS LONG, MAYBE, IF I CAN DO IT, TOO.
I WONDER HOW MUCH RE-SOLVE IT WOULD TAKE FOR HIDING YOUR FEELINGS TO BECOME THE NORM

HIDING OUR REAL FEELINGS... I THOUGHT I WOULD BE ABLE TO FAKE A SMILE EASILY, BUT I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT HOW TOORU MUST HAVE GOTTEN USED TO DOING THE SAME

BUT I STILL HAVE TO GET A JOB...
COLLAPSE
UGH...

THEN I WON'T HAVE TO FORCE MYSELF TO MOVE OUT SO QUICK-LY.


KNOCK KNOCK
YEAH-HIH?
OH, WHAT'S UP?
. IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE HAVING A HARD TIME WITH THE INTERVIEWS SO I THOUGHT MAYBE I COULD HELP YOU PRAC-TICE
PRAC-TICE?
YEAH, I'LL PRETEND TO BE THE INTERVIEW-ER
WHAT? WHAT'S WITH THAT FACE?
EHHH. IT JUST KINDA HURTS MY PRIDE AS YOUR OLDER SISTER.
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU'RE ONLY A COUPLE MONTHS OLDER ANYWAY.
HURRY UP AND CHANGE.
OKAY-
... IT AL-MOST FEELS LIKE WE'RE TOTALLY NORMAL SIB-LINGS NOW
SO MAYBE I WAS RIGHT THAT IT WOULDN'T BE SO BAD IF I DIDN'T TRY TO MOVE OUT IMMEDIATELY...?
KNOCK KNOCK
I'M READY.
PLEASE ENTER.

WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE A SUIT? I MEAN, ANYONE LOOKS TEN TIMES COOLER IN A SUIT
AND I'M TOTALLY NOT USED TO IT SINCE WE WORE GAKURAN* AND SAILOR UNIFORMS AT OUR SCHOOL!
TOO... TOO SEXY...

TL/N: Gakuran are black, stiff-collared boy's uniforms.

PHEW
THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.
I MANAGED TO GET THROUGH IT...
THAT CONCLUDES OUR INTERVIEW.
Ahem
...
EH.
WELL, YOUR EYES TEND TO WANDER A LOT.
S-SO WHAT DO YOU THINK I'M DOING WRONG?
HMMM. YOUR POSTURE LOOKS GOOD AND I CAN HEAR YOU PRETTY WELL. YOUR ANSWERS NEVER SEEMED OFF

WELL, THAT'S
I DON'T THINK YOU USED TO AVOID EYE CONTACT, BUT RECENTLY YOU'VE BEEN DOING IT A LOT.
YOU HADN'T NOTICED?
YOU HAVEN'T LOOKED ME IN THE EYE ONCE SINCE WE STARTED TALKING.

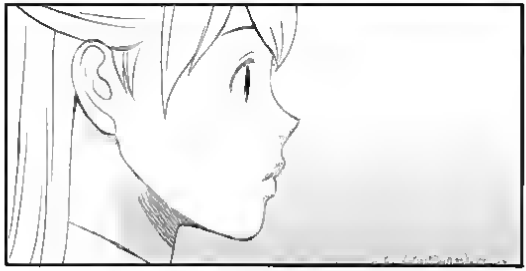
I THINK THAT EYE CONTACT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IN CREATING A STRONG IMPRESSION.
IF YOU DON'T LOOK THEM IN THE EYE, THEN THEY WON'T HAVE A VERY STRONG IMPRESSION OF YOU
YOU SEEMED TO FOCUS MORE ON MY NECKTIE
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU HAD TO GO AND SAY SOMETHING LIKE "I'D DIE FOR HER"...!

EEK! WHY IS HE SUDDENLY TRYING TO TRAIN ME SO SERIOUSLY!?
SO LET'S PRACTICE EYE CONTACT RIGHT NOW
Is he out to get me?

OH, OKAY...
YOU DON'T WANT TO SEEM LIKE YOU'RE GLARING AT THEM, BUT I THINK IT'LL BE BAD IF YOU KEEP AVOIDING EYE CONTACT LIKE THIS

I'M OKAY. I'M OKAY.
CLENCH

IT WOULD BE WEIRD IF YOU REFUSED NOW, MINATO.
IT'LL BE FINE. YOU'LL GET USED TO IT AND EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE

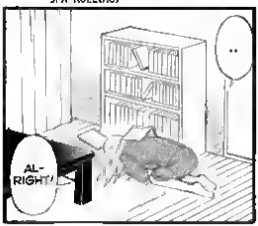


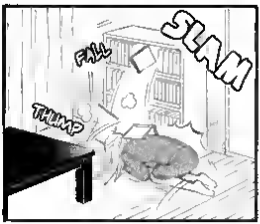
...
OKAY.
IF YOU CAN LOOK INTO YOUR INTERVIEWER'S EYES NATURALLY LIKE THAT, THEN I THINK YOU'LL BE FINE
GOOD LUCK ON YOUR NEXT INTERVIEW
SHIT
I'M TOTALLY AND UTTERLY NOT FINE...!!?
Fu
BUT
Slide
SFX: POOF

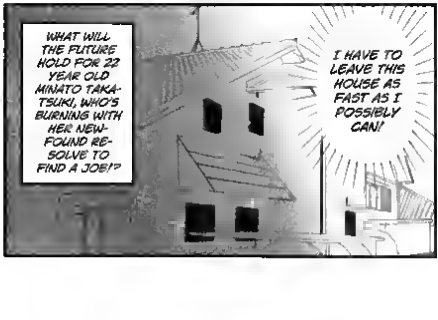
I'M TOTALLY IN LOVE WITH HIM!! AND I WANT HIM TO BE THE HAPPIEST MAN ALIVE..!!
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD EVER JUST GO BACK TO NORMAL AFTER HIDING MY FEELINGS FOR A WHILE!

OH MY GOD WHAT A PIERCING GAZE
I GOT SO LOST IN HIS EYES THAT I ALMOST FORGOT I'M SUPPOSED TO BE HIDING MY FEELINGS
AAAHH!!

SFX ROLL(X3)


..
AL-RIGHT!


FALL
SLAM
THUMP


WHAT WILL THE FUTURE HOLD FOR 22 YEAR OLD MINATO TAKATSUKI, WHO'S BURNING WITH HER NEW-FOUND RESOLVE TO FIND A JOB!?
I HAVE TO LEAVE THIS HOUSE AS FAST AS I POSSIBLY CAN!